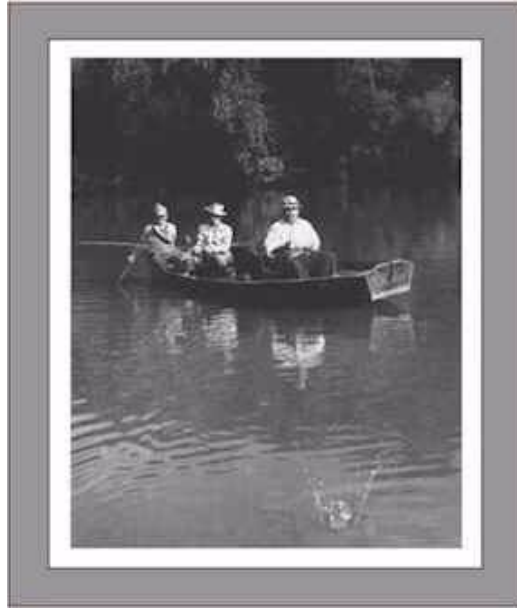


ANGLER GUIDE



STREAMS

Roaring River State Park

Information: 417/847-2430

The park is divided into three zones each with different bait or lure, and creel restrictions. Zone 1 is from the hatchery to the posted sign at the mouth of Dry Hollow Creek, only flies, artificial lures, and soft plastic bait may be used. Zone 2 is from the mouth of Dry Hollow Creek to the old dam in the lower campground, only flies may be used. A portion of zone 2, from the mouth of Dry Hollow Creek to the bridge on Hwy. F, is designated as catch and release only (trout may not be possessed and must be returned to the water immediately unharmed). This portion of zone 2 is also designated as a multiple use area with wading and swimming allowed. Zone 3 is from the old dam in the lower campground to the park boundary (1.4 miles), where artificial lures, soft plastic bait, and natural bait can be used. Zone 3 may be fished with a state fishing permit and either a daily permit or a trout permit. Rainbow trout and some brown trout are stocked. Wade fishing is only allowed in the catch and release area of zone 2 and in zone 3.

LAKES

Bull Shoals Lake (Ozark Region)

Information 417/256-7161

Due to inadequate recruitment since 1990, largemouth bass numbers have been declining in both

the Forsyth and Theodosia arms of Bull Shoals Lake, for the past six years. Bass anglers can expect to catch even fewer black bass than last year. Spotted bass (Kentucky bass) will make up approximately 30-40% of the black bass catch in both arms of the lake. Because of historically inconsistent recruitment of largemouth bass and the fact that spotted bass and largemouth bass are competing for food and habitat, a new set of black bass fishing regulations took effect on March 1, 1998. Anglers catching largemouth bass or smallmouth bass less than fifteen inches (15") and spotted (Kentucky) bass less than twelve inches (12") must return these black bass unharmed immediately after being caught from Bull Shoals Lake. More than a quarter of the largemouth bass that anglers manage to catch will be >15", with about 10% being >18". About one third of the spotted bass caught by anglers will be legal to take home, however, due to the poorer growth potential of this species, less than two percent will >15". The black bass species are not difficult to tell apart if you know what to look for. There are three good, easy to learn characteristics (tongue patch, jaw bone, and cheek scales), which when used together, allow an angler to correctly identify largemouth bass and spotted bass with 99% confidence. To obtain a free pamphlet and billfold size card on black bass identification write to the: Missouri Department of Conservation, Black Bass Identification, P. O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. Although smallmouth bass comprise <20% of the black bass population, anglers with patience and good smallmouth angling skills can be rewarded by trophy-size smallmouth bass. There are very few smallmouth bass in the Forsyth arm with most smallmouth bass being caught in the area near Pontiac. Anglers can expect crappie numbers and sizes to be good and similar to last year. Many crappie are harvested by anglers during the April-May spawning season. During this period, six out of ten crappie will exceed the minimum length limit of 10". The percentage of crappie in the lake that are black crappie has been increasing in recent years to the point that more than half of the catch is now black crappie. Two to six pound test line and small maribou or plastic-bodied jigs or live minnows produce the majority of the crappie caught in Bull Shoals Lake. During the spawning season anglers should concentrate their search for crappie in secondary coves in 4-10' of water near woody cover. Most white bass harvest occurs in conjunction with their annual spawning run into the lake's major tributaries such as Beaver, Swan and Big Creeks and the Little North Fork River. Unfortunately, weather and water conditions in March and April of the last three years resulted in below average white bass angling pressure and success. As a result anglers can expect plenty of 14-16" white bass in 1999. Roadrunners, jigs and Rapalas or any other lure that resembles small fish are the lures of choice. The walleye numbers in both arms of the lake continue to increase as a result of a Missouri Department of Conservation stocking program started in 1990 and a 18" minimum length limit adopted in 1995. During the peak of walleye spawning activity, mature walleye congregate near or in Swan and Beaver Creeks near Forsyth, and the Little North Fork River near Theodosia. A large concentration of spawning walleye can also be found between Powersite Dam and the Hwy. 76 bridge (the "Pothole" area). Walleye weighing more than ten pounds are caught from the Pothole on a regular basis. In the Forsyth area, anglers will continue to see their walleye catch rate improve. More than half the walleye caught in the spring months will be >18", with 5-10% exceeding 24" and five pounds. During an electrofishing survey in early April of 1998, walleye up to 32" long were captured with several individuals in excess of 12 lbs. The walleye population in the Theodosia arm continues to grow, with some anglers catching 3-4 walleye per hour during the summer. Most walleye caught in this

arm are 16-20" with a few >5 lbs. An estimated 10,000 stocker-size rainbow trout go over Powersite Dam (which impounds Lake Taneycomo) each year into the Pothole of Bull Shoals Lake. Trout can be caught from this relatively small area throughout the year. Catfishing is expected to be similar to last year.

Lake Taneycomo (Southwest Region)

Information: 417/895-6880

Anglers can look forward to good trout fishing throughout the year. The laced 20" minimum length limit on brown trout has resulted in good numbers of large brown trout and the opportunity to catch larger trout. There are some very large brown trout in Lake Taneycomo at the present time. Several brown trout 20-30 lbs. have been observed in recent population samples, and at least one fish over 25 lbs. was caught by an angler during 1998. The highest densities of both brown trout and rainbow trout occur above Branson. However, good trout fishing can be found throughout the lake. Above the mouth of Fall Creek there is a 12-20" slot length limit on rainbow trout. In this area anglers are required to immediately release all rainbow trout between 12" and 20". Only artificial lures and flies may be used above the mouth of Fall Creek. Soft plastic and natural and scented baits are prohibited in this area. The special regulations above Fall Creek have resulted in a significant improvement in the rainbow trout population. Only 7% of the rainbow trout in this 3-mile reach were >13" when the special regulation went into effect in March 1997. This increased to 47% by August 1998. Below the mouth of Fall Creek, there is no length limit on rainbow trout, and flies, artificial lures, soft plastic and natural and scented baits may be used. There is a minimum length limit of 20" on brown trout throughout the entire reservoir. The daily limit is 5 trout, of which, only one may be a brown trout.

Table Rock Lake (Southwest Region)

Information: 417/895-6880

Fishing for black bass should be excellent during 1999. Population structure is excellent throughout the reservoir. The James River and Kings River arms have the highest densities of black bass, but also have the highest fishing pressure. Spotted bass comprise about 20% of the bass population. The best spotted bass fishing occurs in the main part of the lake. Largemouth bass predominate in the tributary arms. The smallmouth bass population continues to increase in range and numbers. The best area of the lake to catch smallmouth bass is from the Highway 86 bridge to Campbell Point. The minimum length limit for all three species of black bass remains 15". Crappie fishing will be fair at best, based on 1997 spring electrofishing. The Kings River and the James River arms will offer the best opportunities to catch crappie. The minimum length limit for crappie is 10". Anglers will have the opportunity to catch some very large white bass. Recent sampling documented the presence of good numbers of white bass >16". The best opportunity to catch white bass is in the spring when they move into tributary streams to spawn. Between March 15 and April 30, anglers will have the opportunity to snag paddlefish, one of the largest fish found in North America. Paddlefish concentrate each spring in the upper reaches of the James River Arm above Cape Fair. The minimum length limit for paddlefish is 24" (eye to fork of tail).